

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
Held on 17th April, 2014
Venue - Woolaston Memorial Hall

Attendees:

Mike Fairless - Chair
Roger Southee (PC) – Secretary

Mary Greenslade (PC)
David Storrar (PC)
David Harris (PC)
Andy Lord (PC)
Steve Reece (PC)
Paul Guest
John Anderson

1. Apologies:

Georgina Harris

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 25th April, 2013
These were read (RS)

3. Matters Arising:
None

4. Previously notified questions:

a. Roy Thompson

Asked whether the draft minutes be published earlier?
Response: This will happen from the next meeting.

DH – They (The minutes) should also be put on the notice board
(in draft)

5. Report of the Clerk to the Parish Council

MF read the clerk's report:

- Number of meetings 11
- Councillors' attendance

Chairman Mick Fairless 10/11
 Vice-Chairman Dave Harris 10/11
 David Storrar 10/11
 Mary Greenslade 8/11
 Andy Lord 8/11
 Steve Reecer 8/11
 Roger Southee 11/11

Unaudited Financial Summary 2013/2014

- Income approaching £19,500, with significant receipts as follows:
 Annual Precept - £16,000, which has remained at this amount for the past seven years, but will increase in the year 2014/2015
- Burials and Memorial fees - £1,000. Litter agency monies from the District Council - £872. Two Rivers Housing contribution to grass cutting - £1,000.
- Costs approaching £15,500, with significant items being:
 - * Grass Cutting fixed for the next three years - £6,080.94
 - * Litter collection costs - £1,560
 - * Staff costs - £4,027.75
 - * Memorial Hall support - £3,500

In returning a surplus of £3,972 income over expenditure, it enables an increase to the reserve provision for the Council's cemetery expansion project and leaves sufficient reserves to meet working contingencies.

There were no questions.
 AL thanked the clerk on behalf of the PC.

6. Report of the Chairman to the Parish Council

MF read the report, which comprised various items.

JA posed a question on the geographic limits of the litter collection.
 RS responded.

7. Parish Charities report:

Woolaston Poores' Land:

Report given by DH

Woolaston recreational Trust

Report given by DH

The accounts for 2014 showed a profit of £95 with £1,494 in the bank. Income was generated from the allotment rentals and the grass keep. Expenditure was incurred from hedge cutting, insurance and water rates.

DH relayed the wish of the Poor Lands Trustees for the PC to take over the allotments.

Woodland Trust: £64 income per year from WPD wayleave payments. There is 1,293 in the bank.

8. Report on the Memorial hall and Recreational Committee

Woolaston Memorial Hall

Report given by their Chairman Mr John Anderson

As you are all aware I took over the chairmanship in August last year.

Having taken the reins I made an assessment of the current situation and made some priorities of projects that need doing.

So far we have

- 1) Replaced the damaged floor boards
- 2) Effected a temporary repair to the changing room floors
- 3) Fitted powerful fans to improve ventilation and reduce mould growth in the changing rooms. We may need to replace the ceilings in the changing rooms as the contractor who fitted the fans reported that the plasterboard is very soft in places.
- 4) Cleaned out the gutters, mended the downpipes
- 5) Changed the hedge which I considered to be dangerous to young children from a thorny mixture to a beech hedge
- 6) Cleared the overgrown plantation to the front of the hall with a view to maintaining it at 5 -6 ft in future in line with the wishes of the neighbours.

- 7) Cleared the overgrown hedge to the side of the changing rooms from overgrowing the roof
- 8) Replaced the mower damaged manhole cover and tomorrow we will raise the surface in that area by spreading some free topsoil - anyone free to help?
- 9) Increased the hire charges.

In view of the foregoing, you will be unsurprised to hear that our finances are healthy, but somewhat depleted and I shall be addressing you and that issue at your next meeting!

I am pleased to report that we have reinstated the carnival this year. Due in no small part to Andy Morgan Watts, who is leading by example with Hawaiian shirts and bags of enthusiasm to increase the community spirit in the village. He has introduced a successful coffee morning on 1st Sat of each month and tried a Bingo evening on the 1st Friday. Bingo has been shelved for the summer but will reappear in the autumn as a Jackpot bingo in an effort to attract more people. Andy is also coordinating a whole week of events leading up to the Carnival day on 5th July and a family picnic on the field on the 6th. Events will include a Craft fair, Photographic exhibition, a footpath challenge (led by Roger Southee) and a tea dance. There will be no parade through the streets, but a full programme of events has been planned for the big day.

We are holding a Grand Draw with a 1st prize of £200 – Please see me afterwards for your tickets!!

Looking forward, I still have aspirations to install solar energy and a ground source heat pump. But I am afraid the company who promised to quote and help with funding opportunities have been somewhat tardy so far in responding to say the least.

I am also keen to modernise the hall insofar as communicating what goes on there. I have instigated a Facebook page – but of course many people do not do Facebook! So we are looking at the possibility of having our own website and with that an on line booking system to compliment the excellent work that Jacky Weller does.

The issue of storage is still there and I intend to obtain planning permission to develop the area alongside the changing rooms that was proposed once before. Once planning is obtained, we can go out for competitive quotes for the work and look at funding opportunities to finance it. We had discussed utilising the loft space more – but there have been several negatives attached to that, least of all a staircase!

And finally, there are always improvements that we can make. The kitchen is not really equipped for providing anything other than teas and coffee. It would be nice to have some decent utensils and a bigger cooker and pots and pans to

provide food – like the MacKenzie hall in Brockweir. We didn't even have teaspoons here! We are looking at getting some more crockery from the old Globe pub and sharing its use with Rising Sun when they need extra. But again, that needs storage space.

So lots done and lots more to do!!

John Anderson (Chairman)

9. Other Matters

Footpaths

RS gave a summary of the state of the parish footpaths and the involvement of AMEY.

He also raised the success of the Woolaston Weekly Walks.

PG raised the issue of the footpaths over his land. The issue was resolved through discussion.

There being no further business

DH closed the meeting at 2115 hrs